

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A lining usable with a horseshoe comprising a hoof pad defining a periphery and a pair of legs, said pad being adaptable to a sole of a hoof and having a connecting bar that is usable to connect said pair of legs substantially near ends of the legs, said lining comprising:

a flat plate defining a periphery and comprising a flexible ~~plastic~~ material, said plate being positionable within a space definable by said ~~plate~~ hoof pad and said sole of said hoof so as to avoid adhesion of snow and ice on said sole of said hoof, the plate also being substantially similar in shape to that of said hoof pad; and

a tubular shaped hump positioned along and extending from said periphery of said flat plate and being formed of separate portions, the hump including at least one substantially tubular hollow space and further defining said space definable by said ~~plate~~ hoof pad and said sole of ~~said hoof, the hoof, the separate portions each having one end that extends substantially to the connecting bar and a second end, said plate being free of said hump beyond a point of connection of said legs by said connecting bar being tubular in shape and is adapted to extend to a connecting bar usable to connect said pair of legs of said hoof pad substantially near ends of said legs, said hump being formed of separated portions and the second end of each separate portion having an end wall that extends from the flat plate with the flat plate extending between the end walls such that a gap is provided between the end walls so as to provide an interruption along its extent~~ substantially adjacent connection of said legs of said hoof pad ~~and comprising at least one substantially tubular hollow space which is oval in shape and extends throughout, said separated~~

~~portions of said hump being positioned in an upright stance on said flat plate and adapted to extend substantially up to a front end of said hoof pad;~~

~~said plate being substantially similar in shape to that of said hoof pad so as to follow the periphery thereof, said plate being free of said hump beyond a point of connection of said legs by said connecting bar.~~

14. (Previously Presented) The lining as recited in claim 13 wherein:

said at least one substantially tubular hollow space comprises a profile which is similarly configured throughout said separated portions of said hump.

15. (Previously Presented) The lining as recited in claim 13 wherein:

said at least one substantially tubular hollow space forms at least one ellipse.

16. (Previously Presented) The lining as recited in claim 15 wherein:

the at least one ellipse is adapted to be positioned in an upright stance relative to said sole of said hoof such that the smaller axis thereof extends generally parallel to said sole of said hoof and the larger axis thereof extends generally parallel to the height of the hump.

17. (Previously Presented) The lining as recited in claim 15 wherein:

the at least one ellipse is adapted to be positioned such that the larger axis thereof extends generally parallel to the sole of said hoof and the smaller axis thereof extends generally parallel to the height of the hump.

18. (Previously Presented) The lining as recited in claim 13 wherein:
the cross-sectional size of the at least one substantially tubular hollow space ranges from 1/3 to 1/2 that of the total cross-sectional size of the hump.

19. (Currently Amended) The lining as recited in claim 13 wherein:
the at least one substantially tubular hollow space is positioned in an upper half of ~~the~~ a cross-section of the hump.

20. (Currently Amended) The lining as recited in claim 13 wherein:
the at least one substantially tubular hollow space comprises two separated ellipses oriented ~~in an upright stance~~ vertically so as to be positioned parallel to each other and perpendicular to the sole of said hoof.

21. (Previously Presented) The lining as recited in claim 13 wherein:
the at least one substantially tubular hollow space comprises two separated ellipses oriented ~~in a non-upright stance~~ horizontally so as to be positioned parallel to each other and to the sole of said hoof.

22. (Previously Presented) The lining as recited in claim 20 wherein:
the ellipses are each of the same size.

23. (Previously Presented) The lining as recited in claim 21 wherein:
the ellipses are each of the same size.

24. (Previously Presented) The lining as recited in claim 13 wherein:
the at least one substantially tubular hollow space undergoes an elastic deformation upon
load being placed thereon.

25. (Currently Amended) The lining as recited in claim 13 wherein:
the ends of said at least one substantially tubular hollow space are open.